

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims provided below replaces the claims of the originally filed application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Beverage can (1) ~~with~~ having a an exposed protective cover secured over a in the can lid area of the can, wherein the cover (3) is made of a non-laminated embossed aluminum foil and has a thickness in the range of approximately nine micrometers to approximately 15 micrometers.

2 and 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) Beverage can according to ~~one of claims claim 1 to 3~~, wherein the depth of embossing of the aluminum foil ~~comprises~~ is in the range from approximately sixty micrometers to approximately one hundred micrometers.

5. (Currently Amended) Beverage can according to ~~one of claims claim 1 to 4~~, wherein the aluminum foil ~~features~~ has vermicular embossing.

6. (Currently Amended) Beverage can according to ~~one of claims claim 1 to 5~~, wherein the protective cover (3) is joined to the beverage can (1) with adhesive.

7. (Original) Beverage can according to claim 6, wherein the adhesive is applied to the central area of the can lid (1a).

8. (Currently Amended) Beverage can according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein the adhesive is applied to ~~the~~ an upper can edge (1c).

9. (Currently Amended) Beverage can according to ~~one of claims claim~~ 6, 7, or 8; wherein the adhesive is one that must ~~can~~ be activated, ~~preferably heat-activated~~, and is applied to the protective cover.

10. (Currently Amended) Beverage can according to ~~one of claims claim~~ 1 to 9, wherein the protective cover (3) has a substantially rotationally symmetrical ~~basie~~ shape.

11. (Currently Amended) Beverage can according to ~~one of claims claim~~ 1 to 9, wherein the protective cover (3) has a polygonal ~~basie~~ shape.

12. (Original) Beverage can according to 11, wherein the protective cover (3) has several points progressing downward along the can (1).

13. (Currently Amended) Beverage can according to ~~one of claims claim~~ 1 to 12, wherein the protective cover (3) conforms to ~~the~~ a contour of the can lid (1a) and of ~~the~~ an upper can edge (1c).

14. (Currently Amended) Method for application of a protective cover to a beverage can, ~~wherein the method comprising the steps of bringing~~ an essentially flat blank (3) of embossed aluminum foil, while covering at least the can lid (1a), ~~is brought~~ into contact with the beverage can (1), and molding the blank, ~~while being shaped~~ in a ductile manner, ~~is molded to~~ a contour of the can lid (1a).

15. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 14, ~~wherein further comprising the steps of forming~~ the blank (3) has to have a larger surface than the can lid (1a), and is also ~~molded~~ molding the blank to the over a can edge (1c) adjacent the can lid and, if applicable, ~~the can shoulder (1b)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 14 ~~or 15~~, wherein ~~the a~~ bond between the beverage can (1) and the protective cover (3) occurs exclusively as a result of the an interlocking fit created during the molding process step.

17. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 14 ~~or 15~~, wherein further comprising the step of applying adhesive is applied to the blank (3) ~~and/~~ or the beverage can (1) prior to contact of the cover to the beverage can.

18. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 14 ~~or 15~~, wherein further comprising the steps of providing the blank (3") features with a coating (3a) of adhesive that is one that must ~~can~~ be activated, ~~preferably heat-activated~~, and activating that the coating (3a) ~~is activated~~ before ~~and/~~ or during bringing ~~into contact of the blank (3") into contact~~ with the beverage can (1) ~~, preferably by means of heating the blank (3") and/or the beverage can (4)~~.

19-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) ~~Blank for a protective cover for~~ A protective cover blank and a beverage can combination, wherein it is the beverage can having a non-planar lid area and the blank being conformable to the lid area in a ductile manner and being made of non-laminated embossed aluminum foil, wherein the aluminum foil has a thickness in the range from approximately 9 micrometers to approximately 15 micrometers, and wherein the depth of embossing is in the range from approximately 60 micrometers to approximately 100 micrometers.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) ~~Blank~~ Combination according to claim 23 ~~or 24~~, wherein ~~it features vermicular~~ said aluminum foil has vermicular embossing.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~Blank~~ Combination according to ~~one of claims claim~~ 23 to 25, wherein it features the blank has a substantially circular basic shape, possibly with a pull-off tab (23) attached to it.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~Blank~~ Combination according to ~~one of claims claim~~ 23 to 25, wherein it features the blank has a polygonal basic shape.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~Blank~~ Combination according to ~~one of claims claim~~ 23 to 27, wherein it features the blank has, on one side, a ~~full surfaces or zonal~~ coating (3a) of adhesive that is one that must ~~can~~ be activated, preferably heat-activated.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~Blank~~ Combination according to claim 28 ~~35~~, wherein the zonal adhesive coating (3a) is arranged in the a center of the blank, ~~preferably in a circular shape~~.

30. (New) Beverage can according to claim 9, wherein the adhesive is one that must be heat-activated.

31. (New) Method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of molding the blank over a can shoulder (1b) beyond and downward from the can edge (1c).

32. (New) Method according to claim 18, wherein the adhesive coating is one that must be heat-activated and the step of activating comprises heating the adhesive coating.

33. (New) Method according to claim 32, wherein the step of activating further comprises heating the blank or the beverage can.

34. (New) Combination according to claim 26, wherein the blank has a pull-off tab (23).

35. (New) Combination according to claim 28, wherein the coating is a zonal coating applied to only a portion of the one side of the blank.

36. (New) Combination according to claim 28, wherein the coating is a full surface coating applied to the entirety of the one side of the blank.

37. (New) Combination according to claim 28, wherein the coating is an adhesive that must be heat activated.

38. (New) Combination according to claim 29, wherein zonal coating is applied to the one side in a circular shaped pattern.

39. (New) Method according to claim 14, further comprising the steps of conveying a plurality of the cans in an upright orientation past a placing apparatus, and operating the placing apparatus to place one of the protective covers onto the can lid of each of the cans from above while pressing the cover, at least partially, against a lid area of the cans.

40. (New) Method according to claim 39, further comprising the steps of locating the placing apparatus upstream from at least one press-on apparatus, and operating the press-on apparatus to mold the protective covers to the respective lid areas of the cans.

41. (New) Method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of providing a device (27) for applying the adhesive to the blanks of to the beverage cans.

42. (New) Method according to claim 32, further comprising the step of providing a device (29) for heating the blanks to activate the coating.